

out to me that I was in error: that Beauvois gave as a synonym of his *Diarrhena* "*Diarrhena* SMART" and in the Index "*DIARRHENA Schmal.*" Beauvois, then, was merely changing the spelling and stumbling over the authorship of *Diarina* Rafinesque-SCHMALTZ.

This being the case, *Diarrhena* Raf. in Beauv. (1812) is merely a change of spelling, not apparently sanctioned by its original author, of *Diarina* Raf. (1808). Consequently, the correct combination, *Diarrhena* (under the discarded spelling *Diarina*) *festucoides* goes back to its source, Rafinesque (1808). The question raised, whether species legitimately published under invalid or no generic names can stand, is still open. In view of obvious differences of judgment on this academic point, which is not definitely covered by the International Rules, I have referred the matter for study to the Executive Committee on Nomenclature appointed at Cambridge.—M. L. FERNALD.

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FICUS CARICA IN MASSACHUSETTS.—In the fall of 1931 Mr. Gilbert Emery sent to Boston, for identification, a fragment of a leaf from a strange plant observed by him in Whitman, Massachusetts, for two successive years.

Wishing to see more of the plant, the writer went to Whitman on November 17, and after examining a large area of waste ground—the most probable habitat—discovered the shrub growing in a vacant field, on the sunny side of an old shed, close to the building. The plant was about four feet high, well branched, and bore several small green fruits. Specimens later shown to Dr. Alfred Rehder and Mr. J. B. Mackintosh were identified by them as the fig, *Ficus Carica* L.

Figs are often grown for ornamental and commercial purposes, and in southern New England will live outside during the summer, but records of persistent escapes as far north as Whitman may not be very numerous.—S. N. F. SANFORD, Boston Society of Natural History.

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